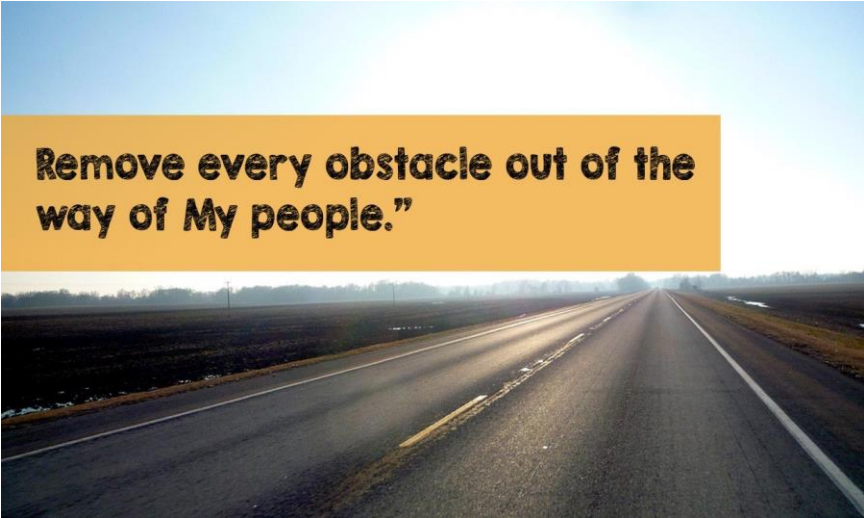




# St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



**Remove every obstacle out of the way of My people.”**

## *The Prophets – “3<sup>rd</sup> Isaiah”*

*September 5, 2021*

*10:30 Holy Communion*

This is our third and final week looking at the book of Isaiah. We will be reading chapter 57. It was probably written sometime after the Jews were allowed to return from Babylon and rebuild. We would hope that all was going well, but it was not. Old habits were returning. Things were just as bad as before the exile. God calls to the people again to turn to him for life and peace.

### *Welcome to worship today!*

Please observe social distancing and remain conscious of the need to prevent the spread of infectious disease. In this bulletin is an insert that will be used to determine today's attendance. It will also help to identify who was here if contact tracing is necessary. Please fill it out and place it in the offering plate.

† GATHERING †

Prelude and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,  
whose teaching is life,  
whose presence is sure,  
and whose love is endless.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: God our comforter:

**C: like lost sheep, we have gone astray.  
We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity.  
We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression.  
We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed.  
Free us from our sin, gracious God.  
Listen when we call out to you for help.  
Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves.  
Amen.**

P: All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.

**C: Amen.**

Gathering Hymn My Lord of Light

*(For music see Hymn 832 in the Red Hymnal)*

1. **My Lord of light who made the worlds,  
in wisdom you have spoken;  
but those who heard your wise commands  
your holy law have broken.**
2. **My Lord of love who knew no sin,  
a sinner's death enduring:  
for us you wore a crown of thorns,  
a crown of life securing.**
3. **My Lord of life who came in fire**

**when Christ was high ascended:  
your burning love is now released,  
our days of fear are ended.**

**4. My Lord of lords, one Trinity  
to your pure name be given  
all glory now and evermore,  
all praise in earth and heaven.**

Text: Christopher Idle, b. 1938. Copyright 1980 by Jubilee Hymns, admin. Hope Publishing Company. Music: English folk tune; arr. Alice Parker, b. 1925, arr. Copyright 1995 Augsburg Fortress

Greeting (2 Corinthians 13:13)

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

God of grace, you have given us minds to know you, hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may celebrate your glory and worship you in spirit and truth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

† WORD †

First Reading Isaiah 57

B: The righteous perish,  
and no one takes it to heart;  
the devout are taken away,  
while no one understands.

For the righteous are taken away from calamity,  
<sup>2</sup>and they enter into peace;  
those who walk uprightly  
will rest on their couches.

<sup>3</sup>But as for you, come here,  
you children of a sorceress,  
you offspring of an adulterer and a whore.

<sup>4</sup>Whom are you mocking?  
Against whom do you open your mouth wide  
and stick out your tongue?

Are you not children of transgression,  
the offspring of deceit—

<sup>5</sup>you that burn with lust among the oaks,  
under every green tree;

you that slaughter your children in the valleys,  
under the clefts of the rocks?

<sup>6</sup>Among the smooth stones of the valley is your portion;  
they, they, are your lot;

to them you have poured out a drink offering,  
you have brought a grain offering.

Shall I be appeased for these things?

<sup>7</sup>Upon a high and lofty mountain

you have set your bed,  
and there you went up to offer sacrifice.

<sup>8</sup>Behind the door and the doorpost

you have set up your symbol;

for, in deserting me, you have uncovered your bed,

you have gone up to it,  
you have made it wide;

and you have made a bargain for yourself with them,

you have loved their bed,  
you have gazed on their nakedness.

<sup>9</sup>You journeyed to Molech with oil,

and multiplied your perfumes;

you sent your envoys far away,

and sent down even to Sheol.

<sup>10</sup>You grew weary from your many wanderings,

but you did not say, "It is useless."

You found your desire rekindled,

and so you did not weaken.

<sup>11</sup>Whom did you dread and fear

so that you lied,

and did not remember me

or give me a thought?

Have I not kept silent and closed my eyes,

and so you do not fear me?

<sup>12</sup>I will concede your righteousness and your works,

but they will not help you.

<sup>13</sup>When you cry out, let your collection of idols deliver you!

The wind will carry them off,

a breath will take them away.

But whoever takes refuge in me shall possess the land

and inherit my holy mountain.

<sup>14</sup>It shall be said,

“Build up, build up, prepare the way,  
remove every obstruction from my people’s way.”

<sup>15</sup>For thus says the high and lofty one  
who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy:

I dwell in the high and holy place,  
and also with those who are contrite and humble in spirit,  
to revive the spirit of the humble,  
and to revive the heart of the contrite.

<sup>16</sup>For I will not continually accuse,  
nor will I always be angry;  
for then the spirits would grow faint before me,  
even the souls that I have made.

<sup>17</sup>Because of their wicked covetousness I was angry;  
I struck them, I hid and was angry;  
but they kept turning back to their own ways.

<sup>18</sup>I have seen their ways, but I will heal them;  
I will lead them and repay them with comfort,  
creating for their mourners the fruit of the lips.

<sup>19</sup>Peace, peace, to the far and the near, says the LORD;  
and I will heal them.

<sup>20</sup>But the wicked are like the tossing sea  
that cannot keep still;  
its waters toss up mire and mud.

<sup>21</sup>There is no peace, says my God, for the wicked.

*After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord*

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Scripture Poetry* Psalm 73 (read responsively)

D: How good God is to the just,  
how faithful to the honest!

**C: Yet I almost slipped,  
came close to stumbling.**

D: I envied the arrogant  
as I watched them succeed.

**C: Their bodies are perfect,  
well-fed and healthy.**

D: They remain untouched  
by the troubles we bear.

**C: They adorn themselves with pride,**

**wrap themselves in violence.**

D: Decadent and slick,  
they scheme recklessly,

**C: mocking and snarling,  
spewing out threats.**

D: They boast the heavens are theirs,  
lay claim to all the world,

**C: pulling people after them,  
who swallow what they say.**

D: They ask "How would God know?  
Does the Most High know anything?"

**C: These, then, are the wicked,  
always richer, always stronger.**

D: What did I gain by my clean hands,  
by keeping my conscious clear?

**C: I suffered day after day,  
each dawn brought me pain.**

D: But to talk like them  
would betray your people.

**C: I tried to fathom this,  
but it all tormented me**

D: until I went to your holy place.  
Now I understand their fate.

**C: You set them on a slippery path,  
making them fall to their ruin.**

D: How soon they are destroyed,  
swept away in terror.

**C: Like images from a dream,  
you, Lord, let them fade.**

D: I became embittered,  
my feelings numb;

**C: I was dull, obtuse,  
stupid as an ox.**

D: But I stayed close to you,  
and you took my hand.

**C: You teach me wisdom,  
leading me to glory.**

D: What more would I have in heaven?

Who else delights me on earth?

**C: If mind and body fail,  
you, God, are my rock,  
my support for ever.**

Gospel Acclamation (Isaiah 57:14)

**C: Alleluia. Build up, prepare the way. Remove the obstructions  
from my people's way. Alleluia.**

Gospel Reading Luke 13:1-5

*The gospel is announced:*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to you O Lord.**

At that very time there were some present who told [Jesus] about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? <sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

*After the reading:*

P: The Gospel of the Lord

**C: Praise to you O Christ.**

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day      Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise  
(For music turn to Hymn 834 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise!**
2. **Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,  
nor wanting nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.**
3. **To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;  
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;  
we blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,  
and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.**
4. **Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light;  
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;  
all laud we would render; oh, help us to see  
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!**

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824-1908, alt. Music: Welsh traditional; arr. John Roberts, 1807-1876

Apostles' Creed

P: We join in confessing our faith with the Apostles' Creed.

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints  
the forgiveness of sins,**



**the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

P: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A: Creator of the stars of night, for the earth we pray: lower global temperatures; provide a healthy harvest; protect the habitats of wild animals; and train us to care for your creation

Our hope is in you, O God:

**C: O Lord, hear my prayer.**

B: Mighty Fortress, for the nations we pray: protect the world from tyranny and violence; guide our elected officials; look with mercy on the people of Afghanistan; lead our nation toward the right use of our military; and bring peace to all.

Our hope is in you, O God:

**C: O Lord, hear my prayer.**

D: Hope of the world, in this time of pervasive adversity we pray: preserve us from storms and wildfires; protect us from terrorists; and wean us from the ways of prejudice.

Our hope is in you, O God:

**C: O Lord, hear my prayer.**

E: Rock of ages, for laborers we pray: grant a just wage to the employed and meaningful jobs to the unemployed; and shape our society to honor all residents of our land.

Our hope is in you, O God:

**C: O Lord, hear my prayer.**

*The pastor concludes the prayer:*

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

Peace

A: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

A: We share that peace with one another.

*The congregation may greet one another with messages of Christ's peace.*

† MEAL †

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Special Music

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray: God of abundance,

**C: you cause streams to break forth in the desert  
and manna to rain from the heavens.**

**Accept the gifts you have first given us.**

**Unite them with the offering of our lives**

**to nourish the world you love so dearly;**

**through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus of Nazareth; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with church of yesterday, today and tomorrow; and the church here in this place and all churches throughout the world, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*(Isaiah 6:3, spoken)*

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of power and might,**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

P: In the night in which he was handed over our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take and eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Lord's Prayer

P: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

Communion Distribution

*Welcome to the Lord's Supper! All who are baptized are invited to receive communion. The pastor will bring a wafer to you and place it in your hands. The communion assistant will follow with a tray of grape juice or wine. If you need a gluten free option please tell the pastor.*

Communion Blessing After all have communed the pastor will say:

P: The body and the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer

E: Let us pray: Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

† SENDING †

Blessing

P: People of God,  
you are Christ's body,  
bringing new life to a suffering world.

The holy Trinity, one God,  
bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*Sending Hymn* Waterlife

*(for music turn to Hymn 457 in the Red Hymnal)*

**1. Before I can remember, the covenant was sealed  
with Father, Son and Spirit, in water was revealed.  
The cleansing was for certain, with water and the Word;  
gentle words were spoken, in heaven they were heard.**

*Chorus* **They were singing water life, beginning life,  
water life, all my life, water life, Spirit life, water life.**

**2. A simple sweet beginning, a loving place to start:  
Christ began the singing that swells within my heart.  
His love became my calling, His life my ministry.  
His name is my adoption into His family. *Chorus***

**3. My hope and expectation for true community  
begins with resurrection, His death and life in me.  
His Spirit fills the body; His church through water sees  
promise for tomorrow, His water life in me. *Chorus***

Text and music: Handt Hanson, Copyright 1991 Changing Church Forum, Inc., CCLI #806124

*Dismissal*

**P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.**

**C: God's Work. Our Hands.**

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